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A M A N U A L

OF

ETHNOLOGICAL INQUIRY.

A SUB-COMMITTEE of the British Association for the Advancement of Science, consisting of Dr. Hodgkin and Mr. Cull, was appointed at the Ipswich meeting, 1851, to prepare a new edition of the questions concerning the human race, and 12*l.* was placed at their disposal for printing it. These questions, contained in a small pamphlet, were little more than a translation of those issued by the Paris Ethnological Society. The Sub-Committee endeavoured, by various modifications, to render the new edition still more useful as a guide for studying man ethnologically. The title was changed, an edition of three thousand was printed for the 12*l.*, and is in course of circulation for the guidance of travellers, missionaries, and others, in collecting the kind of knowledge which we seek. Copies of the Manual can be obtained on application to Dr. Hodgkin, 35 Bedford Square; to John Phillips, Esq., F.R.S., York; or to Richard Cull, Esq., 13 Tavistock Street, Bedford Square, to whom answers to all or any of the questions contained in the Manual are requested to be sent.

The Council of the Ethnological Society considers this Manual should be preserved, and it is accordingly reprinted here.

The late Dr. Prichard read a paper at the Meeting of the British Association held at Birmingham in 1839, 'On the Extinction of some varieties of the Human Race.' He cited instances in which total extinction has already taken place, and other instances in which a continually decreasing population threatens a total extinction. He pointed out the irretrievable loss to science if so many tribes of the human family are suffered to perish, before those highly important questions of a physiological, psychological, philological, and historical character, in relation to them, have been investigated. In order to rightly direct inquiry into the subject, a set of questions was drawn up by a Committee of the British Association, which was largely

circulated by means of successive grants of money for that purpose. These questions were, however, adapted, not only to direct inquiry respecting those tribes which are threatened with extinction, but also to the rest of the human family. The object in publishing these questions is to induce Consuls, political and other residents and travellers, to obtain precise knowledge in reply to them, and to send it to a centre—the British Association.

It should always be borne in mind that the verification of what is already known is of importance in Ethnology, as in other sciences. The discovery of new tribes of the human family falls to the lot of but few observers, while many have the opportunity of adding to our knowledge of those tribes that are partially known; besides which, recent observation may differ from the older in consequence of changes that may have taken place in the people. Any amount of knowledge, however trifling it may appear in itself, may be of great value in connexion with other knowledge, and therefore will be welcomed. We are seeking facts, and not inferences; what is observed, and not what is thought.

The following questions might be much increased in number, and the reasons and motives for framing them stated, but such detail would swell the tract to a volume.

Physical Characters.

1. Ascertain the form, size, and weight of the people. Measure the height of several men; state those measures, and whether they are above or below the ordinary stature. Measure the length of the limbs, giving the situation of the elbow and knee. Measure the circumference of the chest, thighs, legs, arms, neck, and head of the same men; and weigh the same men. Observe if the women be less than the men in stature and relative dimensions; and, if possible, measure and weigh them also. If any remarkable deviations above or below the ordinary stature occur in the adults, measure and weigh them also.

2. Note if there be any prevailing disproportion between different parts of the body, or any peculiarity of form.

3. What is the prevailing complexion? It is impossible to

accurately describe colour by words. The best method is to imitate the colour on paper: if this be impracticable, state what the colour is in comparison with some well-known complexion. The colour and character of the hair can be obtained by bringing home specimens. State at what age the hair falls off or turns grey. The colour, form, size, situation, and other character of the eyes should be accurately described. It is very desirable to obtain individual likenesses by means of some photographic process.

4. Is there, apart from lack of personal cleanliness, any peculiar odour, as in the Negro? If so, describe it.

5. The importance of the head claims particular attention. The head consists of two parts, viz. the face and the brain-box. Is the shape of the face round, oval, long, broad, lozenge-shaped, or of any other marked form? In addition to the best verbal description, give three sketches of the whole head, by which means the character of the features, their relation to each other and to the whole head, can be at once displayed. These sketches should be—1st, a profile; 2dly, a front face; and 3dly, a view looking down on the top of the head. Let sufficient neck be taken in order to shew how the head is set on and carried. And in these sketches accuracy of drawing is indispensable, without which, picturesque effect is valueless.

The form and size of the head, and the relative proportions of its parts, can be obtained with minute precision, by measuring it in the method laid down by phrenologists. If the observer be competent, by a previous study of phrenology, he is requested to observe the manifestations of mind in connexion with the cerebral development, as indicated by the form, size, and proportions of the head.

6. Human skulls should be collected, and care should be taken to bring away such specimens as fairly represent the people. Remarkable skulls should also be preserved and marked as such: their deviations should be accurately described. And besides those specimens which are brought away, it is desirable to observe certain things in a large number, always stating the number observed.

a. Is the os frontis divided by a middle suture?

- b.* Are the skull-bones thick, thin, heavy, light, dense, &c.?
 - c.* Are the sutures much indented?
 - d.* Are ossa triquetra frequent? If so, in what sutures do they occur?
 - e.* Does the squamous bone well abut on the frontal bone?
 - f.* Open some crania to ascertain if there be large frontal sinuses: if so, state the condition of the ossification, and also of the teeth.
 - g.* Observe the bones of the face, their relation to each other, and to the cranium.
 - h.* What is the form of the outer orbital process?
 - i.* Is the palatine arch flat or vaulted?
 - j.* Does the upper jaw project forwards?
 - k.* What is the form of the lower jaw?
 - l.* What is the shape of the chin?
 - m.* What is the relative position of the ossa nasi and unguis?
 - n.* What is the situation of the foramen magnum?
 - o.* What is the state of development of the paroccipital processes?
 - p.* Observe the number, position, character, and mode of wear of the teeth.
 - q.* Have they any artificial means of modifying the form and appearance of the teeth?
7. The number of lumbar vertebræ should be ascertained, as an additional one is said to occur in some tribes.
8. Measure the length of the sternum and that of the whole trunk, so that comparisons may be instituted.
9. Give some idea of the relative magnitudes of the chest and abdomen.
10. What is the character of the pelvis in both sexes?
11. What is the form of the foot?
12. The form of the scapula deserves attention, especially its breadth and strength, and the clavicle also in relation to it.
13. The blood-vessels and internal organs can be subjected to examination, but with greater difficulty: observe any peculiarities in regard to them.

Peculiarities may exist which cannot be anticipated by special question: the observer should, if possible, examine

each organ in detail, and, comparing one with another, he will find few things escape him.

14. Are Albinos found? if so, what characters do they present? State their parentage, and all that can be gathered to throw a light on their origin. State the physical characters of their children, if they have any.

15. Where a district obviously possesses two or more varieties of the human race, note the typical characters of each in their most distinct form, and indicate to what known groups or families they may belong; give some idea of the proportion of each; and state the result of their intermixture on physical and moral character. When it can be ascertained, state how long intermixture has existed, and of which the physical characters tend to predominate. It is to be observed, that this question does not so much refer to the numerical strength or political ascendancy of any of the types, but to the greater or less physical resemblance which the offspring may bear to the parents, and what are the characters which they may appear to derive from each: whether there is a marked difference arising from the father or the mother belonging to one of the types in preference to another; also whether the mixed form resulting from such intermarriage is known to possess a permanent character, or, after a certain number of generations, to incline to one or other of its component types.

16. Any observations connected with these intermarriages, relating to health, longevity, physical and intellectual character, will be particularly interesting, as bringing light on a field hitherto but little systematically investigated. Even when the people appear to be nearly or quite free from intermixture, their habits, in respect of intermarriage with larger or smaller circles, and the corresponding physical characters of the people, will be very interesting.

Language.

17. The affinity of languages is one line of evidence of high value in ethnological researches, and hence the importance of obtaining accurate information concerning the language of a people.

18. If the language be a written one, care should be taken to obtain specimens of the best compositions in it, both of verse and prose. If possible, procure native manuscripts; if not, obtain copies of them.

If there be no written language, and therefore no literature, yet traditions will be found which should be obtained and recorded, as closely as possible, verbatim, so as to preserve their own collocation and arrangement of words, taking care to select as the most valuable such as relate to their own origin, history, wars, habits, superstitions, &c.

19. If possible, cause some competent person to translate into their language a well-known continuous composition, as the Lord's Prayer, the 1st chapter of Genesis, and the 6th and 7th chapters of St. Luke's Gospel; for with these examples a philologist will be able to give a very good account of any language.

20. In compiling a vocabulary from the mouth of an intelligent native, two objects must be steadily kept in view, viz. 1st. the right selection of words; and 2dly, their accurate reproduction.

1st. *The proper selection of words.*—In selecting the words to form the first vocabulary of a strange language, we must reject,—1st, all words which have no corresponding words in our own language; 2dly, all words which only imperfectly correspond to words in our own language; and take only such words as perfectly correspond. Words are names of things, events, qualities, conditions, &c. Words of the following classes should be taken:—

- a. The names of natural physical objects, as *sun, moon, fire, water, man, arm, river, hill, &c.*; the names of animals, &c.
- β. The names of physical qualities, as *red, blue, round, long, heavy, &c.*
- γ. The names of events, actions, conditions, &c., as *to fall, to walk, to eat, to sleep.*
- δ. The names of family relationships, as *father, mother, sister, uncle, &c.*
- ε. The names of the numbers as high as they can enumerate. The ordinal numerals should also be given.

It should be ascertained if there be Distributives, Multiplicatives, and Proportionals. Is there any thing corresponding to our Numeral Adverbs?

ζ. Personal Pronouns.

η. Particles such as prepositions, conjunctions, &c.

In compiling a vocabulary, the observer should verify every word he receives from one informant by the testimony of others.

2dly. *Their accurate reproduction.*—The words should be so written, that a person quite ignorant of the language, and with no other guide than the vocabulary, shall be able from it alone to pronounce each word with accuracy, sufficient for philological researches.

If elementary sounds peculiar to the language, as the clicks of the Kaffirs, or the sounds represented by *ص* and *ع* of the Persian alphabet, occur in the words of the vocabulary, it is obvious that no alphabetic notation will enable one who is ignorant of the language to reproduce those words, even though the compiler invents characters to represent them. Mr. Ellis's Ethnic Alphabet is a useful stock of characters to those whose lingual knowledge is sufficient to use it. Our own alphabet, however, is found to be sufficient to write many vocabularies, including both Kaffir and Persian, with an accuracy sufficient for our purpose.

In writing the vocabulary, it is of great importance to mark the accented syllable of the word. The mark of the acute accent is commonly adopted for this purpose, and is recommended to be continued by future compilers.

21. Ascertain the extent of the geographical area over which the language is spoken.

22. Ascertain what languages it comes in contact with at the periphery of its area; and if unknown or but partially known languages occur, collect vocabularies of them also.

23. Ascertain if the same language without dialectic variations be spoken over the whole lingual area. If variations occur, give examples of them; always bearing in mind that facts are of greater value than opinions.

Grammar.

In giving an outline of the Grammar, the following hints may be useful:—

24. Give the various forms which words assume, as—

a. The plural forms of Nouns, and the dual if it exist.

β. The cases of Nouns.

γ. Adjectives, their inflections and modes of concord.

δ. Pronouns, their various forms, with the dual if it exist.

25. Exhibit the formation of compound words.

26. What is the order of words in a sentence?

27. Beyond the mere order of words, observe if the subject take precedence of the predicate; the cause of the effect; and of any peculiarity in the statement of propositions.

Individual and Family Life.

28. Are there any ceremonies connected with the birth of a child? Is there any difference whether the child be male or female?

29. Does infanticide occur to any considerable extent; and if it does, to what causes is it to be referred—want of affection, deficient subsistence, or superstition?

30. Are children exposed, and from what causes, whether superstition, want of subsistence or other difficulties, or from deformity, general infirmity, or other causes of aversion?

31. What is the practice as to dressing and cradling children, and are there any circumstances connected with it calculated to modify their form; for example, to compress the forehead, as amongst the western Americans; to flatten the occiput, as amongst most Americans, by the flat straight board to which the child is attached; to occasion the lateral distortion of the head, by allowing it to remain too long in one position on the hand of the nurse, as amongst the inhabitants of the South Seas?

32. Are there any methods adopted, by which other parts of the body may be affected, such as the turning in of the toes, as amongst the North Americans; the modification of the whole foot, as amongst the Chinese?

33. How are the children educated, what are they taught, and are any methods adopted to modify their character, such as to implant courage, impatience of control, endurance of

pain and privation, or, on the contrary, submission, and to what authorities, cowardice, artifice?

34. Is there any thing remarkable amongst the sports and amusements of children, or in their infantile songs or tales?

35. At what age does puberty take place?

36. What is the ordinary size of families, and are there any large ones?

37. Are births of more than one child common? What is the proportion of the sexes at birth and among adults?

38. Are the children easily reared?

39. Is there any remarkable deficiency or perfection in any of the senses? It is stated, that in some races sight is remarkably keen, both for near and distant objects.

40. To what age do the females continue to bear children; and for what period are they in the habit of suckling them?

41. What is the menstrual period, and what the time of utero-gestation?

42. Are there any ceremonies connected with any particular period of life?

43. Is chastity cultivated, or is it remarkably defective; and are there any classes amongst the people of either sex by whom it is remarkably cultivated, or the reverse, either generally or on particular occasions?

44. Are there any superstitions connected with this subject?

45. What are the ceremonies and practices connected with marriage?

46. Is polygamy permitted and practised, and to what extent?

47. Is divorce tolerated, or frequent?

48. How are widows treated?

49. What is the prevailing food of the people? Is it chiefly animal or vegetable, and whence is it derived in the two kingdoms? Do they trust to what the bounty of nature provides, or have they means of modifying or controlling production, either in the cultivation of vegetables, or the rearing of animals? Describe their modes of cooking, and state the kinds of condiment which may be employed. Do they reject any kinds of aliment from scruple, or an idea of uncleanness? Have they in use any kind of fermented or other form of exhilarating liquor, and, if so, how is it obtained? What number of meals

do they make? and what is their capacity for temporary or sustained exertion?

50. Describe the kind of dress worn by the people, and the materials employed in its formation. What are the differences in the usages of the sexes in this respect? Are there special dresses used for great occasions? and, if so, describe these, and their modes of ornament. Does any practice of tattooing, piercing, or otherwise modifying the person for the sake of ornament, prevail amongst the people? [*N.B.* Such modifications not to be blended with other modifications used as signs of mourning, &c.]

51. Have the people any prevailing characteristic or remarkable modes of amusement, such as dances and games exhibiting agility, strength, or skill?

52. Are games of chance known to the people, and is there a strong passion for them?

53. Do the people appear to be long or short-lived? If any cases of extreme old age can be ascertained, please to state them. Such cases may sometimes be successfully ascertained by reference to known events, as the previous visits of Europeans to the country. Is there a marked difference between the sexes in respect of longevity?

54. What is the general treatment of the sick? Are they cared for, or neglected? Are any diseases dreaded as contagious, and how are such treated? Is there any medical treatment adopted? Are there any superstitious or magical practices connected with the treatment of the sick? What are the most prevailing forms of disease, whence derived, and to what extent? Is there any endemic affection, such as goitre, pelagra, plica, or the like? With what circumstances, situations, and habits do they appear to be connected, and to what are they referred by the people themselves?

55. Where there are inferior animals associated with man, do they exhibit any corresponding liability to, or exemption from, disease?

56. Do entozoa prevail, and of what kind?

57. What is the method adopted for the disposal of the dead? Is it generally adhered to, or subject to variation?

58. Are any implements, articles of clothing, or food, deposited with the dead?

59. Is there any subsequent visitation of the dead, whether they are disposed of separately, or in conjunction with other bodies?

60. What is the received idea respecting a future state? Does this bear the character of transmigration, invisible existence about their accustomed haunts, or removal to a distant abode?

Buildings and Monuments.

61. What are the kinds of habitations in use among the people? Are they permanent or fixed? Do they consist of a single apartment, or of several? Are the dwellings collected into villages or towns, or are they scattered, and nearly or quite single? If the former, describe any arrangement of them in streets or otherwise which may be employed.

62. Have any monuments been raised by the present inhabitants or their predecessors, and more especially such as relate to religion or war? State their character, materials, and construction. If they are still in use amongst the people, state this object, even if they should be of the simplest construction, and be little more than mounds or tumuli. If these monuments are no longer in use, collect, as far as possible, the ideas and traditions of the natives regarding them, and, if possible, have them examined by excavation or otherwise, taking care to deface and disturb them as little as possible.

63. In these researches, be on the look out for the remains of the skeletons of man or other animals; and, if discovered, let them be preserved for comparison with those still in existence.

Works of Art.

64. Let works of art, in metal, bone, or other materials, be likewise sought and preserved, and their similarity to, or difference from, implements at present in use amongst the people of the district, or elsewhere, be noted. Have they any kind of commerce or exchange of commodities with the people of other tribes or countries, civilized or uncivilized? and if so, what are the articles which they give and which they take in exchange? Is this trade or barter in continued or irre-

gular operation, or periodical by means of fairs, stated journeys to or visits from other people ?

65. Name the people and channels of this trade.

66. Is it of long standing or recent ?

67. Has it undergone changes, when and how ?

68. When a people display their ingenuity by the extent or variety of their works of art, it will not only be desirable to describe what these are, but also the materials of which they are constructed, the modes in which these materials are obtained, the preparation which they undergo when any is required, and the instruments by which they are wrought. Such particulars will not only throw light on the character and origin of the people, but will, directly or indirectly, influence the commercial relations which may be profitably entered into when commerce alone is looked to. When colonization is contemplated, the facts contained in the replies to these queries will point out the mutual advantages which might be obtained by preserving, instead of annihilating, the aboriginal population.

Domestic Animals.

Are there any domestic animals in the possession of the people ? Of what species are they ? Whence do they appear to have been derived, and to what variety do they belong ? Have they degenerated or become otherwise modified ? To what uses are they applied ?

Government and Laws.

69. What is the form of government ? Does it assume a monarchical or democratic character, or does it rest with the priests ?

70. Are the chiefs, whether of limited or absolute power, elective or hereditary ?

71. Is there any division of clans or casts ?

72. What are the privileges enjoyed by or withheld from these ?

73. What care is taken to keep them distinct, and with what effect on the physical and moral character of each ?

74. What laws exist among the people? How are they preserved? Are they generally known, or confided to the memory of a chosen set of persons? What are their opinions and regulations in reference to property, and especially the occupation and possession of the soil? Does the practice of hiring labourers exist among them?

75. Have they any knowledge or tradition of a legislator, to whom the formation of laws is ascribed?

76. Do they rescind, add to, or modify their laws? and how?

77. Are they careful in the observance of them?

78. What are their modes of enforcing obedience, and of proving and punishing delinquency?

79. How are judges constituted? Do their trials take place at stated periods, and in public?

80. How do they keep prisoners in custody, and treat them?

81. What are the crimes taken cognizance of by the laws? Is there gradation or commutation of punishment?

Geography and Statistics.

82. Briefly state the geographical limits and character of the region inhabited by the people to whom the replies relate.

83. State approximately the number of inhabitants. As this is an important, but very difficult question, it may not be amiss to point out the modes in which the numbers may be ascertained. The people themselves may state their number with more or less accuracy, but it should be known whether they refer to all ranks and ages, or merely comprehend adult males, who may be mustered for war, or other general purposes requiring their combination. In this case state the apparent proportion between adult males and other members of families. The number of habitations in a particular settlement may be counted, and some idea of the average numbers of a family be given. Where the people inhabit the water-side, the number and dimensions of their craft may be taken, and some idea of the proportion between the number of these and of the individuals belonging to them, may be formed. In drawing conclusions from observations of this kind, it will be necessary

to have due regard to the different degrees of density or rarity in which, from various causes, population may be placed.

84. Has the number of inhabitants sensibly varied, and within what period?

85. If it have diminished, state the causes; such as sickness, starvation, war, and emigration. When these causes require explanation, please to give it. If the inhabitants are on the increase, is this the result of the easy and favourable circumstances of the people causing an excess of births over deaths, or is it to be assigned to any cause tending to bring accessions from other quarters? State whether such causes are of long standing, or recent.

86. Is the population generally living in a manner to which they have been long accustomed, or have new relations with other people, and consequently new customs and practices, been introduced?

87. If the people, being uncivilized, have come under the influence of the civilized, state to what people the latter belong, how they are regarded, and what is the kind of influence they are producing.* State the points of their good influence, if any, and those of an opposite character, as the introduction of diseases, vices, wars, want of independence, &c.

88. Is there any tendency to the union of races? how is it exhibited, and to what extent?

Social Relations.

89. What kind of relationship, by written treaty or otherwise, subsists between the nation and other nations, civilized or not? Have they any intercourse by sea with other countries? Do any of them understand any European language? Or are there interpreters, by whom they can communicate with them?

90. Are they peaceable, or addicted to war? Have they any forms of declaring war, or making peace? What is their mode of warfare, either by sea or land? their weapons and

* This question will comprise the existence of missions—the success or the want of it from causes connected with missionaries themselves, or others.

strategy? What do they do with the slain, and with prisoners? Have they any mode of commemorating victories by monuments, hieroglyphics, or preservation of individual trophies, and of what kind? Have they any national poems, sagas, or traditions, respecting their origin and history? Where Europeans have introduced fire-arms, ascertain the modes of warfare which have given place to them.

State whatever particulars respecting their origin and history are derived, either from traditions among themselves or from other sources.

Religion, Superstitions, &c.

91. Are the people addicted to religious observances, or generally regardless of them?

92. Do they adopt the idea of one great and presiding Spirit, or are they polytheists?

93. If polytheism exist, what are the names, attributes, and fables connected with their deities, and what are the modes in which devotion is paid to each? Are any parts of the body held sacred, or the reverse? Do they offer sacrifices, and are they of an expiatory character, or mere gifts?

94. Have they any sacred days or periods, fixed or moveable feasts, or religious ceremonies of any kind, or any form of thanksgiving or other observance connected with seasons?

95. Have they any order of priests, and if so, are they hereditary, elective, or determined by any particular circumstance?

96. Is the religion of the people similar to that of any other people, neighbouring or remote? If different, are they widely so, or dependent on particular modifications, and of what kind?

97. In what light do they regard the religion and deities of neighbouring tribes?

98. Is there any idea of an inferior order of spirits and imaginary beings—such as ghosts, fairies, brownies, and goblins—and how they are described?

99. Have they any notions of magic, witchcraft, or second sight?

100. What ideas are entertained respecting the heavenly bodies? Have they any distinction of stars, or constellations? and if so, what names do they give them, and what do these names signify?

101. Are they in any manner observed with reference to the division of the year, and how?

102. If time is not divided by observations of those bodies, what other mode is adopted? and do observances connected with them rest with the priests or chiefs?

103. When the traveller, by personal acquaintance with the language, or by means of competent assistance from interpreters, can freely converse with the people, it will be desirable that he should form some idea of their amount of intelligence, their tone of mind with regard to social relations, as respects freedom, independence, or subserviency, and their recognition of moral obligations, and any other psychological character which observation may detect; and more especially such as may contribute to an estimation of the probable results of efforts to develope and improve the character.

In using this little manual, it should be borne in mind that it is not a mere guide to inquire into those tribes that are threatened with extinction, nor to make out certain details which are desiderata in our knowledge of the people of any given locality, but is intended to direct inquiry generally respecting the varieties of man.